services to the existing small scale industries as well as prospective entrepreneurs. Khadi and Village Industries Commission has also set up Technology Research Centres in various parts of the country.

Steps to help employees of PSUs to avail voluntary retirement

1465. SHRI V. HANUMANTHAPPA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new initiatives are being taken to help the employees of public sector units to apply for voluntary retirement;

(b) whether it is a fact that too many procedural obstacles are in the way for employees to take full advantage of various voluntary retirement schemes;

(c) whether there is any monitoring body to clear applications for voluntary retirement in all Public Sector Units; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Voluntary Retirement Schemes are to be adopted by the PSEs who have manpower surplus to their requirement. Applications received from the employees opting for voluntary retirement have to be processed by the management of each PSE as expeditiously as possible. Procedure for processing these applications is to be evolved by the PSEs themselves. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to constitute a monitoring body to clear applications for voluntary retirement in all PSEs.

Selling of Mandya National Paper Mill to private sector

1466. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mandya National Paper Mill, Mysore is likely to be sold to the private sector on 'as is where is' basis;

(b) if so, the reasons for which it cannot be made profitable and the future of its 1,000 employees which is at stake at present, sofeguarded;

(c) the accumulated losses suffered by this Paper Mill, as per the latest information; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister wrote a letter to the Karnataka Chief Minister also and if so, what is the possibility of the State taking it over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. is a sick unit referred to BIFR. The accumulated losses as on 31.3 1994 amounted to Rs. 101.94 crores. In January, 1994 BIFR reached a prima fecie conclusion that the company has become unviable and it was not possible to rehabilitate it and it was therefore just and equitable and in public interest that the company should be wound up. However, the final decision of BIFR is awaited.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has since submitted to BIFR their readiness to grant certain concessions/reliefs only for the revival of the company and suggested that the Operating Agency be asked to look into the rehabilitation proposal keepng in view the fresh concessions proposed to be extended by the State Government.